

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending. By this Response, claims 1 and 3 are amended. Claim 7 has been added. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above-amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito, et al. (U.S. 6,529,644) in view of Hoffman (COMPCON 1995) and Hoyt, et al. (U.S. Publication NO. 2001/0011262). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an image capturing system having an image capture unit for capturing image data representing an image, a display unit for displaying the image captured by the image captured unit, and a recording control unit for executing processing for recording the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, from a portable recording medium and processing for recording an image represented by the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, from a visible recording medium, said system comprising an input/output unit that is able to capture the image data from the portable recording medium and the visible recording medium and a hot-pluggable input/output interface to which the input/output unit can be connected.

Claim 3 recites, *inter alia*, a method of controlling operation of an image capture system having an image capture unit for capturing image data representing an image, a display unit for displaying the image captured by the

image capture unit, and a recording control unit for executing processing for recording the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, from a portable recording medium and processing for recording an image represented by the image data, which has been captured by the image unit, from a visible recording medium, said method comprising the steps of providing a hot-pluggable input/output interface to which an input/output unit can be connected the input/output unit able to capture said image data from said portable recording medium and said visible recording medium.

Each of the above claims recite features that allow images to be received from a portable recording medium and also a visible recording medium. The portable recording medium, which includes medium such as disks, CD ROM and a memory card, allows the user the flexibility of processing an image that can be reduced onto the portable medium. Further, the visible recording medium allows for a user to process images that are not reduced onto a portable recording medium. This includes media such as film, photographs, etc. Thus, already developed images can be processed onto visible medium.

The applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Ito, Hoffman, and Hoyt fail to teach the above claimed combinations. Ito teaches a system that processes images acquired via a video camera or similar device. The system is configured such that a user is able to have an image taken by a camera located on the system and have that image printed. See columns 3 and 4, Figs. 1-4. The system of Ito only acquires image data from a camera device.

Another embodiment of Ito teaches the use of an external video input as illustrated in step S82 of Fig. 25 to acquire image data. The external device is limited to a type of video device. See column 11, lines 58-67 through column 12, lines 1-26.

The Office Action appears to consider the external video device as the claimed portable recording medium. However, even if the external device is considered as the portable recording medium, Ito fails to teach or suggest capturing data from a visible recording medium and thus fails to teach or suggest an input/output unit able to capture said image data from said portable recording medium and said visible recording medium, as recited in claims 1 and 3. (emphasis added).

Hoyt and Hoffman fail to make-up for the deficiencies of Ito. Hoyt teaches a system that is similar to Ito. Hoyt teaches a photo booth which the user is able to have his or her picture taken and processed. The user can then obtain a printed photograph of the image taken. Hoyt does not teach or suggest processing image data through an input/output unit which is able to capture data from a portable recording medium and a visible recording medium as claimed.

Further, Hoffman is merely provided to disclose the use of a hot-plug such as the IEEE 1394, which known in the art. Hoffman does not teach or suggest any type of device that is capable of processing portable recorded medium and visible recording medium. In view of the above, applicant

respectfully submits that the combination of teachings in Ito, Hoffman, and Hoyt fail to teach or suggest all the claimed limitations as recited in independent claims 1 and 3. Likewise, dependent claims 2 and 4-6 are distinguishable over the combination of references for similar reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-7 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowable are earnestly solicited.

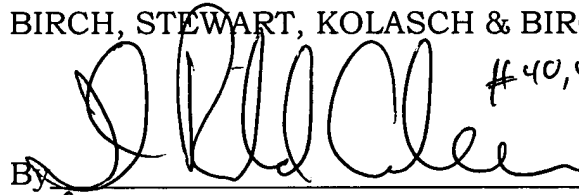
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 09/628,003

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

 #40,435

By Michael R. Cammarata
Reg. No.: 39,491

MRC/CJB:cb
0905-0242P

Attachment(s)

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